

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 NEA-10 EUR-25 AF-10 DLOS-06 COA-02

ACDA-19 IO-14 NSC-10 SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 DRC-01 /155 W

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R 261116Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0967

INFO CINCPAC

S E C R E T BANGKOK 3251

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, US, XO

SUBJ: INDIAN OCEAN TASK GROUP

REFS: (A) STATE 036172 (B) BANGKOK 2685

1. SINCE THAILAND HAS 400 MILES OF INDIAN OCEAN COAST-LINE, IT QUALIFIES AS A LITTORAL STATE. FURTHERMORE, PRESENT AIR SUPPORT FOR DIEGO GARCIA STAGES THROUGH UTAPAO ROYAL THAI NAVY BASE, AND BANGKOK-BASED NAVY OICC HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION WORK AT DIEGO GARCIA. THEREFORE WE ARE TAKING REFTEL A FOR ACTION AND REQUEST THAT BANGKOK BE INCLUDED AS ACTION ADDRESSE ON FUTURE MESSAGES DEALING WITH NAVAL MOVEMENTS AND OTHER ACTIONS AFFECTING US PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN.

2. UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED WE INTEND TO TAKE EARLY OPPORTUNITY AFTER MARCH 2 TO INFORM RTG SUPREME COMMAND THAT THE KITTY HAWK IS OPERATING IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA AND THAT THE BAINBRIDGE GROUP WILL BE DEPARTING. WE DO NOT PRESENTLY INTEND TO DISCUSS WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, UNLESS THEY RAISE THE SUBJECT WITH US IN WAKE OF THEIR RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENT (REF B).

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3. LOCAL PRESS GOT WIND OF OICC DESIGN WORK FOR DIEGO

GARCIA LAST WEEK, BUT QUERIES WERE SUCCESSFULLY FINESSED
AND NO NEWS STORIES HAVE YET BEEN SPOTTED. HOWEVER
IT SEEMS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL THE STORY LEAKS,
AND PRESS HANDLING MAY EXAGGERATE THE THAI INVOLVEMENT
OR SEEK TO EMBARRASS US IN OUR RELATIONS WITH RTG.
THEREFORE, IN ADDITION TO KEEPING OUR KEY RTG CONTACTS
INFORMED REGARDING THE NAVAL SITUATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN,
WE WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY AUTHORITY TO BRIEF THE THAI
SUPREME COMMAND ON THE EXTENT OF THE NEW CONSTRUCTION PRO-
JECT AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THAI PERSONNEL AND THAI
BASES WILL BE INVOLVED.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NAVAL SHIPS, SHIP MOVEMENTS, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO03251
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740210/aaaaairm.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 036172 (B) BANGKOK 2685
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Aug-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN OCEAN TASK GROUP
TAGS: MOPS, US, XO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005